

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Changes Affecting the Political Officers at the Russian Komendatura in Berlin (1-3)
First Meetings of All Committees of the Central Control Commission of the DMK (4-5)

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1. As of 15 April on, the political officers at the Russian Komendatura in Eastern Berlin have been replaced. The political officer at Pankow is the only one not to have been replaced. These changes affect officers who have been on duty in Berlin for a long period of time, some of them since the beginning of the occupation. Their work consisted of studying all the material which was gathered on the following types of persons: people who had a special reason to be surveilled, SPD officials, shopkeepers whose commercial connections lay particularly in the west, people with many friends or family connections in the west. The Headquarters of the House Control Observation Unit (Leitung der Hausobleute) had to place all its address data at the disposition of these officers.
2. It is not yet known whether the work of these officers is to be carried on in the same manner as heretofore. This question was discussed during a conference of officials of the Landesverband of the Berlin SED, at which the present head of the party control commission, who was formerly the President of the Landesverband, declared that those matters would very soon be handled quite differently. It is possible that after a change in the status of Berlin, which is to be expected soon, a general change in the relationship between the hitherto existing Russian political control officers and the German party organs will take place.
3. On 24 April, Fritz Ebert, the Mayor of Eastern Berlin, stated to a private group of people that he had been notified a few days before by a non-german source that he should consider the extent of his work as being restricted. Circumstances could arise which would free Western Berlin from many of the restrictions which exist at the moment. When these circumstances arise, it will be hard to restrain the forward trend. One must be prepared for a situation of exceptional singularity which will overshadow all the controversies which exist at present.
4. For the first time, on the 26 and 27 April, all the committees of the Central Control Commission of the DMK, of the Land Commission and of the People's Control Committees were in session in Leipzig. Of these committees, those on the Zone level are officially appointed, whereas the members of the People's Control Committees (Volkskontrollausschüsse) serve voluntarily. These committees are entirely made up of members of the SED and their duties are controlled only by the GAI. As to their legal authority, however, they are at least on an equal footing with the police organs. Although they have no

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executive authority, yet every order which they transmit to the police is carried out without delay and without subsequent investigation.

5. During the session of the Central Control Commission, which took place under the chairmanship of Fritz Lange, the Politbureau of the SED held a special meeting at which Kurt Fischer, head of the GAI, and Fritz Lange were present. It was emphasized here that the tasks of the Control Commission during the next weeks and months will be the most important. Since these commissions should concern themselves primarily with economic questions emphasis was placed on the necessity for avoiding all close contact of an open nature with the SED.

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